

Amendments to the Abstract

Please replace the abstract with the following amended abstract.

A spatial knowledge base approach for the automatic extraction of metadata ~~116~~ from
5 electronic documents ~~100~~. The electronic document ~~100~~ is converted to a substantially
format invariant data file ~~104~~ by an intermediate language conversion element ~~102~~.

AI
Spatial layout facts ~~108~~ are extracted and combined with spatial layout rules ~~114~~ from a
knowledge engineer ~~112~~ in a spatial metadata-reasoning element ~~110~~ to provide the
metadata ~~116~~. The invention is based on mimicking the visual and spatial knowledge

10 that humans make use of when reading a document.